

# SAVIORS OF THE SOUTH

HOW TACTICS, TERRAIN, AND “THE FLYING ARMY” SAVED  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

PRESENTED BY: JOEY THOMAS

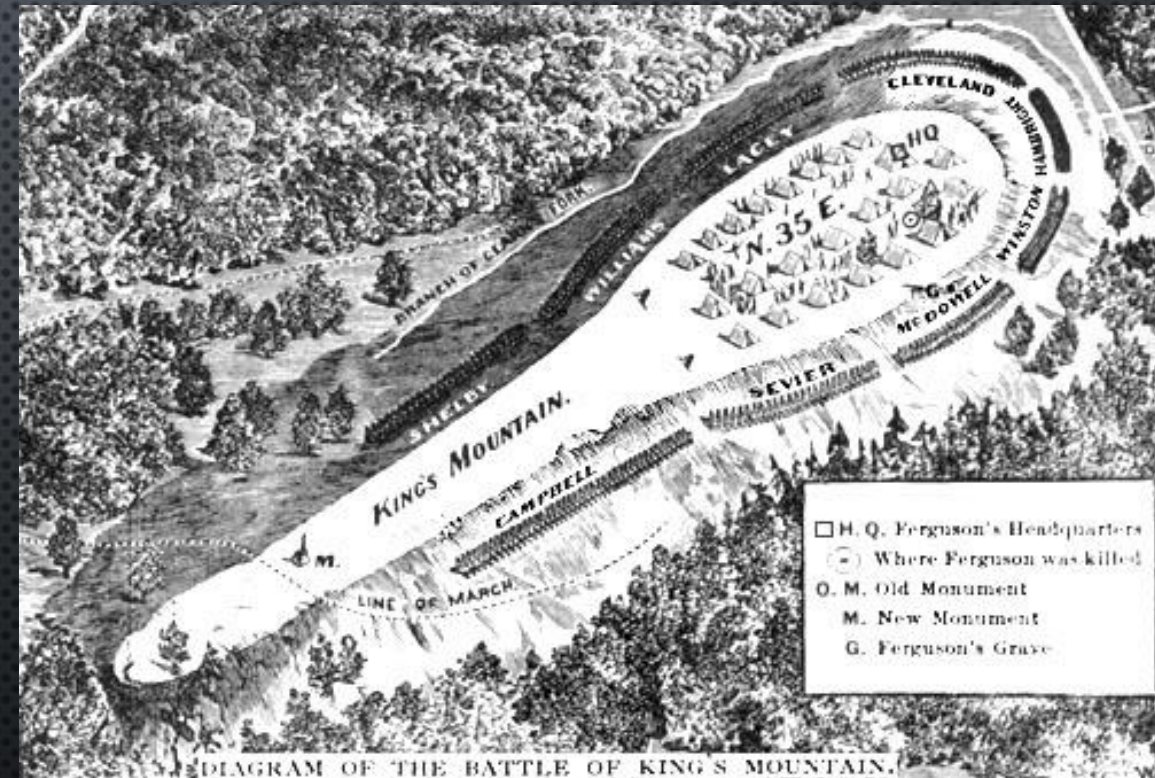
# MY THESIS TOPIC:

- THE SUCCESSFUL USE MILITIA FORCES, ADVANTAGEOUS TERRAIN, AND AMERICAN “REGULARS” BY THE FORCES OF THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN ALLOWED FOR A QUICK AND DECISIVE END TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.
- MY RESEARCH FOCUSED SOLELY ON THE BATTLES OF KINGS MOUNTAIN, COWPENS, AND GUILFORD COURTHOUSE.

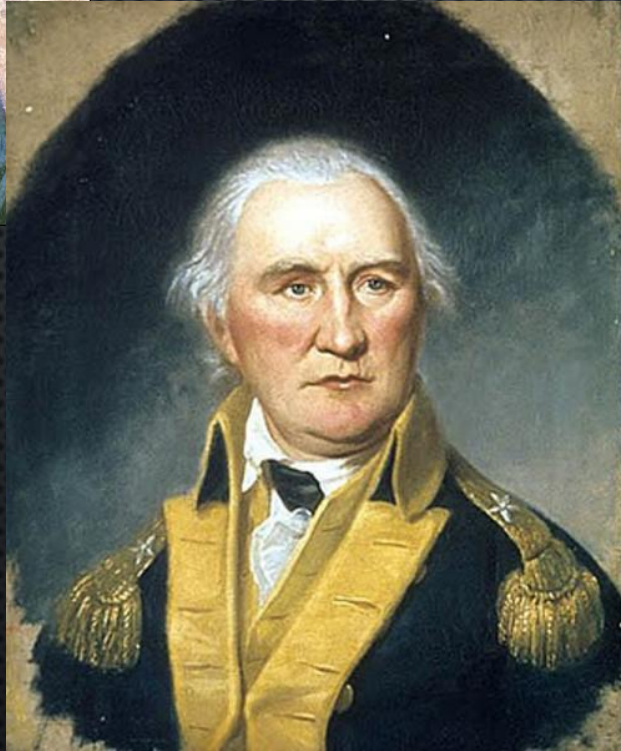


# BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

- “AT THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN EVERY PARTICIPANT BUT ONE WAS AN AMERICAN.” (DYKEMAN, 4)
- THE BRITISH WERE LED BY CAPTAIN PATRICK FERGUSON (THE ONLY NON-AMERICAN).
- WAS THE FIRST MAJOR AMERICAN VICTORY AFTER THE DEFEAT AT CAMDEN.
- HIGHLIGHTED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MILITIA FORCES IN “HIT-AND-RUN” STYLED ATTACKS (DRAPER, 288).
- RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF GENERAL CORNWALLIS’ FLANK; FORCED TO ABANDON HIS MARCH ON CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA.







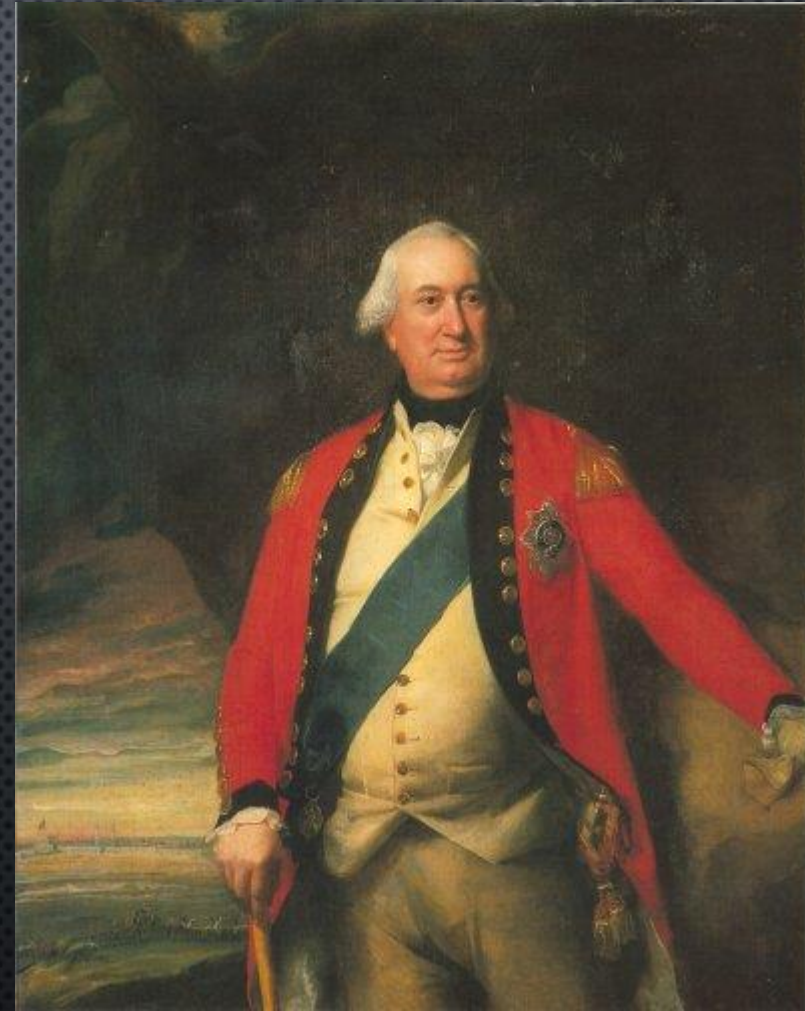
# BATTLE OF COWPENS

- FOUGHT ON GEN. MORGAN'S TERRAIN OF CHOICE.
- MORGAN SOUGHT TO USE MILITIA AS COMPLEMENTARY, NOT SUPPLEMENTARY FORCES (PUGH, 169).
- THE MILITIA WERE TOLD TO FIRE "THREE SHOTS" BEFORE RETREATING (BABBITS, 94-95).
- MORGAN'S VICTORY AT COWPENS DEPRIVED CORNWALLIS OF HIS LIGHT INFANTRY.
- RESULT OF BATTLE MEANT CORNWALLIS WOULD FLEE NORTH TOWARDS THE DAN RIVER, NEAR GUILFORD.
- "AN ACTION THAT CRIPPLED THE BRITISH ARMY BUT LEFT THE AMERICAN ARMY INTACT." – LAWRENCE BABBITS, (146).



# BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

- CLIMAX OF THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN FOR GEN. GREENE AND GEN. CORNWALLIS.
- GREENE SET UP INTO A DEFENSIVE POSITION; CORNWALLIS SET OUT TO DESTROY GREENE'S "FLYING ARMY".
- BRITISH WERE IN MIDST OF A RECRUITING DRIVE FOR LOYALIST MILITIA; BELIEVED N. CAROLINA WAS ALMOST IN THEIR GRASP (HIATT, 14).
- THE BATTLE WAS ONLY A STRATEGIC VICTORY FOR THE AMERICANS, AS THE BRITISH LOST "UP TO A FOURTH OF THEIR ENTIRE ARMY." (TARLETON, 276)
- GREENE COUNTED HIS LOSSES AS "TRIVIAL" COMPARED TO THE BRITISH; "WE FIGHT, GET BEAT, RISE, AND FIGHT AGAIN." (GREENE, 435)





# CONCLUSION

- THE MILITIA PROVED TO BE A VITAL ASSET TO BOTH THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH FORCES OF THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN.
- WITHOUT THE SOUTHERN COLONIES, CORNWALLIS IS FORCED TO REGROUP NORTH WITH GEN. ARNOLD IN VIRGINIA.
- “HIT-AND-RUN” AND OTHER GUERILLA-STYLED TACTICS WERE INNOVATIVE TO EUROPEAN-STYLED WARFARE; THE BRITISH WERE NOT PREPARED TO COPE WITH THE ENSUING LOSSES.
- THE USE OF THE PATRIOT MILITIA WAS KEY IN GREENE’S CAMPAIGN TO KICK CORNWALLIS OUT OF THE SOUTH. HIS LOSS IN THE CAROLINAS WOULD FORCE HIM INTO VIRGINIA AND, EVENTUALLY, YORKTOWN.



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